Saskatchewan
Ministry of
Agriculture

Crop Report

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Crop Report for the period July 14 to 20, 2009

Topsoil moisture conditions continue to improve across many areas of the province, due to significant moisture received over the past two weeks. Crop land topsoil moisture is rated as 80 per cent adequate, while hay and pasture topsoil moisture conditions are rated as 70 per cent adequate, according to Saskatchewan Agriculture's weekly Crop Report.

Across the province, eighteen per cent of the crop land and 26 per cent of the hay and pasture land is short in topsoil moisture.

All crops are reported in good to fair condition; however crop development is two to three weeks behind normal.

Twenty-four per cent of the province's hay crop has been cut, and 22 per cent baled or put into silage. Seventy-six per cent of the hay crop is rated as good to fair in quality. Fifty-two per cent of the hay crop is still standing.

The expected average hay yield on dry land is 0.8 tonne per acre for alfalfa and 0.8 tonne per acre on brome/alfalfa stands. Irrigated alfalfa is expected to yield on average 2.4 tonnes per acre, while irrigated brome/alfalfa stands are expected to yield 2.2 tonnes per acre.

While the rain and warmer weather have resulted in some improvement in hay crops, yields in most regions of the province are expected to be below average, and some regions could see yields reduced by 50 per cent or more.

Farmers are busy with scouting and controlling insects. Grasshoppers and gophers are causing crop damage in the south and west central areas. Wheat midge have emerged and are damaging crops in certain areas in the north. Pea aphids are showing up in certain areas. Frost was experienced in some areas of the east-central and north west regions of the province. Farmers would appreciate some heat to advance crops.

One year ago
Majority of all crops were rated in good to excellent condition.
One third of the hay crop had been baled or put into silage.
Hail and insects were the main sources of crop damage.

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Also available on the Ministry of Agriculture website at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca.

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CANADA – SASKATCHEWAN
Crop Insurance

Please note: We will have the Weekly Rainfall Summary in next week's Crop Report. Sorry for any inconvenience.

Southeastern Saskatchewan (Crop Districts 1, 2, and 3ASE)

SE expected hay yields (tonnes/acre) –July 20, 2009					
	Alfalfa	Alfalfa/ Brome	Other Tame	Wild	Greenfeed
Dry land	1.06	1.11	0.92	0.79	1.34
Irrigated	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

The weather was generally cool but warmed up toward the end of the week. Nights were chilly, with temperatures dipping close to 0°C. The Lampman area recorded 1°C early Thursday morning (July 15). The majority of the week's rain fell on Tuesday, July 14. CD 1A averaged 17 mm; CD 1B, 19 mm; CD 2A, 16 mm; CD 2B, 3 mm; and CD 3ASE, 13 mm. The Manor and Kennedy areas received 48 and 49 mm, respectively. The Midale/Griffin area received 35 mm, while Redvers and Maryfield got 30 mm. The moisture is always welcome. Now heat would be appreciated to advance the crops.

Topsoil moisture conditions have declined a little from last week. Conditions are being reported as two per cent surplus, 67 per cent adequate, 28 per cent short and two per cent very short on cropland. Hay and pasture land topsoil moisture conditions are 55 per cent adequate, 33 per cent short and 12 per cent very short. CD 1B is reporting cropland topsoil moisture is 58 per cent adequate and 36 per cent short. Hay and pasture land topsoil moisture conditions are 54 per cent adequate, 22 per cent short and 24 per cent very short.

Haying operations are in full swing. Twenty-nine per cent of the hay crop is cut and 26 per cent is baled or has been put into silage. Forty-five per cent is still standing. Twelve per cent of the hay crop is rated as excellent quality, 42 per cent good, 27 per cent fair and three per cent poor. Many reporters have indicted there will not be a second cut this year.

Gophers and a variety of insects have been the cause of the majority of crop damage. There are grasshoppers and pea aphids in all CDs; wheat midge in CD 1A, 2B and 3ASE, and alfalfa weevils in CD 1B and 2B. Wheat midge populations are being watched to determine if control is necessary. In some areas, control measures have already been implemented. There are areas in which dry conditions are still damaging crops. Leaf diseases in barley and wheat are being controlled.

In a few RMs, the spotty rain showers that have fallen throughout the growing season have resulted in variable crop conditions and development. Due to the spotty rains, hay yields are expected to be anywhere from far below average to above average.

Early crops are heading out and flowering. Some canola crops are podding. Last year at this time, severe hail swept through the Moosomin, Grenfell and Radville areas, causing 100 per cent damage in places.

SE SK Crop Conditions - July 20, 2009

	Winter Wheat	Fall Rye	Spring Wheat	Durum	Oat	Barley	Triticale
% excellent	15	39	7	10	6	13	0
% good	62	37	60	52	64	52	59
% fair	21	22	28	33	26	29	40
% poor	0	0	2	4	2	4	0
% very poor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

	Flax	Canola	Mustard	Sunflower	Pea	Lentil	Canaryseed	Chickpea
% excellent	11	11	15	22	23	19	10	0
% good	53	51	59	61	48	41	52	60
% fair	31	30	20	16	19	21	24	28
% poor	3	6	5	0	9	18	13	10
% very poor	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0

There is a correction to be made from last week's Crop Report. The crop development table for the southeast should read:

SE SK Crop Development – July 13, 2009

	% Ahead	% Normal	% Behind
Fall Cereals	1	**61**	37
Spring Cereals	0	26	73
Oilseeds	0	29	70
Pulse Crops	0	27	72

Southwestern Saskatchewan (Crop Districts 3ASW, 3AN, 3B and 4)

SW expected hay yields (tonnes/acre)- July 20, 2009

	Alfalfa	Alfalfa/ Brome	Other Tame	Wild	Greenfeed
Dry land	0.59	0.64	0.51	0.33	1.55
Irrigated	2.86	2.13	3.21	N/A	3.00

The southwest had fairly decent growing conditions, warm weather and spotty showers during the past week. Nights and early mornings were generally cool. The majority of the moisture fell on July 14. CD 3ASW averaged 4 mm; CD 3AN, 7 mm; CD 3BS, 4 mm; CD 3BN, 9 mm; CD 4A, 7 mm; and CD 4B, 8 mm. Most areas received less than 20 mm of rain. The Webb area received 17 mm; Rush Lake, 15 mm; and Maple Creek, 14 mm.

Topsoil moisture conditions have worsened from last week. Cropland topsoil moisture was reported as 71 per cent adequate, 28 per cent short and two per cent very short. Topsoil moisture conditions on hay and pasture land are rated as 60 per cent adequate, 34 per cent short and six per cent very short. CD 3BS is reporting 32 per cent adequate, 56

per cent short and 10 per cent very short. Hay and pasture topsoil moisture in this CD is 22 per cent adequate, 54 per cent short and 24 per cent very short.

Haying is underway, with 23 per cent cut and 37 per cent baled or put into silage, while 33 per cent is still standing. Five per cent of the hay is reported to be excellent quality, 42 per cent good, 39 per cent fair and three per cent poor quality. The crested wheat and bromegrass stands are very poor in RM 226. Hay yields in parts of R.M. 109 are expected to be 30 to 50 per cent of the 2008 yield.

The majority of crop damage this past week was attributed to gophers, grasshoppers and dry conditions. Cabbage seedpod weevil damage was reported in the Burstall area. Grasshoppers accounted for 63 per cent of the crop damage, mostly in lentils and later-seeded crops, while gophers caused 31 per cent of the crop damage.

Mustard and canola are blooming. Winter wheat is starting to turn, and is approaching the soft dough stage. Most cereals are headed out. Fall rye in the Ponteix area is nearly ready to swath. Producers will need the frost to stay away until at least September 15 in order to get the crop off in good condition.

Farmers are busy scouting fields and readying harvest equipment.

Last year at this time, hail caused between five and 100 per cent damage across the region. Forty-five per cent of the hay crop had been baled or put into silage.

SW SK Crop Conditions - July 20, 2009

	Winter Wheat	Fall Rye	Spring Wheat	Durum	Oat	Barley	Triticale	
% excellent	4	6	4	4	1	2	2	
% good	67	58	62	52	53	67	74	
% fair	26	32	30	37	40	26	23	
% poor	1	3	4	5	4	3	0	
% very poor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Flax	Canola	Mustard	Sunflower	Pea	Lentil	Canaryseed	Chickpea
% excellent	0	6	2	0	3	8	4	0
% good	45	57	61	66	65	62	48	72
% fair	50	28	32	33	26	25	45	28
% poor	2	6	4	0	4	4	2	0
% very poor	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0

East-Central Saskatchewan (Crop Districts 5 and 6A)

Temperatures are starting to warm up, although chilly evenings resulted in frost in some areas (Leroy). Scattered rain showers occurred, mostly on July 14 and 15. CD 5A

EC expected hay yields (tonnes/acre) – July 20, 2009

	Alfalfa	Alfalfa/ Brome	Other Tame	Wild	Greenfeed
Dry land	0.89	0.97	0.70	0.78	1.35
Irrigated	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

averaged 11mm; CD 5B, 19 mm; and CD 6A, 11 mm. The areas around Quill Lake and Humboldt received 38 and 39 mm, respectively. Many areas received over 10 mm. Precipitation in CD 6A ranged from 1 mm (Jansen) to 39 mm (Humboldt).

Cropland topsoil moisture conditions are reported as 86 per cent adequate and 14 per cent short. Hay and pasture topsoil moisture conditions are 73 per cent adequate and 27 per cent short. CD 5B is reporting hay and pasture topsoil moisture conditions as 67 per cent adequate and 32 per cent short.

Twenty-three per cent of the hay crop has been cut. Eighteen per cent has been baled or put into silage and 59 per cent remains standing. Three per cent of the hay crop is reported to be excellent quality, 56 per cent good and 26 per cent fair quality. Most areas are reporting below-average hay yields.

Very little crop damage was reported, the majority of which was caused by flooding and insects. Wheat midge have been spotted in the Neudorf, Kelliher and Quill Lake areas. Frost occurred in the Leroy and Foam Lake areas. The Imperial, Kenaston and Leroy areas were flooded. The July 12 frost in the Kuroki area does not appear to have caused any crop damage. Root maggots have been spotted in canola in the Leroy area.

Cereals are heading out. Flax and canola are flowering and peas are podding. The recent heat has helped, but crop development is still two to three weeks behind normal.

Farmers are busy applying fungicides to wheat and canola, and controlling midge and pea aphids in some areas.

One year ago, many areas received hail damage. R.M. 211 was severely damaged by an eight-mile-wide hail storm that wiped out most crops. Bertha armyworm counts were on the rise in the Kuroki area. Sixteen per cent of the 2008 hay crop had been baled or put into silage.

EC Crop Conditions - July 20, 2009

	Winter Wheat	Fall Rye	Spring Wheat	Durum	Oat	Barley	Triticale	
% excellent	0	3	3	5	3	5	0	
% good	73	64	71	69	71	72	99	
% fair	24	32	24	24	24	22	0	
% poor	1	0	1	2	1	1	0	
% very poor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Flax	Canola	Mustard	Sunflower	Pea	Lentil	Canaryseed	Chickpea
% excellent	3	3	2	0	14	12	0	15
% good	66	60	68	0	72	77	59	64
% fair	26	32	29	100	13	10	40	21
% poor	4	4	1	0	0	0	1	0
% very poor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

West-Central Saskatchewan (Crop Districts 6B and 7)

WC expected hay yields (tonnes/acre) – July 20, 2009					
	Alfalfa	Alfalfa/ Brome	Other Tame	Wild	Greenfeed
Dry land	0.67	0.66	0.62	0.59	1.34
Irrigated	1.50	2.25	2.00	N/A	2.25

The week's weather was characterized by good growing conditions during the day, cool nights and some moisture. Most of the rain fell on July 14. CD 6B averaged 18 mm of rain; CD 7A, 31 mm; and CD 7B, 8 mm. The Outlook area received 55 mm. The Herschel and Kindersley areas received 80 and 63 mm, respectively, and Biggar recorded 29 mm. However, many areas did not receive any moisture at all (Langham, Rosetown, Biggar, Luseland, Major, Denzil). Localized flooding in the Rosetown area washed out roads. Due to the recent moisture, some crops are developing second growth, which may cause problems at harvest.

Across the region, cropland moisture conditions are rated as two per cent surplus, 79 per cent adequate and 19 per cent short. Hay and pasture land are one per cent surplus, 75 per cent adequate and 24 per cent short. CD 7B is reporting topsoil moisture is 59 per cent adequate and 35 per cent short on hay and pasture land.

The 2009 hay crop is 24 per cent cut, with 13 per cent baled or put into silage (up from four per cent last week). Sixty-three per cent of the hay remains standing. Hay quality is reported as 27 per cent good, 36 per cent fair and 18 per cent poor. Hay yields are reported as below average. Hay yields in the Biggar area are expected to be about 60 per cent of normal.

Grasshoppers and wheat midge damaged some crops.

Pulse crops and canola are flowering, and some cereals are headed out. There are many crop stages within the fields. The rain that fell last week in some areas is "too little, too late" for crops, hay and pasture.

Farmers are busy scouting fields. A few are controlling wheat midge, while others are monitoring thresholds. Diseases are also being controlled in pulses. A long, open and frost-free fall is needed.

One year ago, 41 per cent of the 2008 hay crop had been baled or put into silage (most advanced in the province).

WC SK Crop Conditions - July 20, 2009

	Winter Wheat	Fall Rye	Spring Wheat	Durum	Oat	Barley	Triticale
% excellent	0	0	4	0	4	4	4
% good	45	27	35	20	39	34	26
% fair	27	39	42	46	37	43	18
% poor	0	12	12	15	13	11	11
% very poor	26	20	6	17	5	7	39

	Flax	Canola	Mustard	Sunflower	Pea	Lentil	Canaryseed	Chickpea
% excellent	1	3	4	0	8	8	0	1
% good	29	27	19	24	44	46	6	13
% fair	37	40	45	40	35	27	43	42
% poor	24	23	18	20	6	6	17	27
% very poor	8	6	13	15	5	12	32	16

Northeastern Saskatchewan (Crop Districts 8 and 9AE)

NE expected hay yields (tonnes/acre) – July 20, 2009

	Alfalfa	Alfalfa/ Brome	Other Tame	Wild/Native	Greenfeed
Dry land	1.01	0.91	0.63	0.65	0.99
Irrigated	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

The northeast received some significant rain during the past week. CD 8A received an average of 34 mm and CD 8B averaged 32 mm. The Bruno area received 40 mm; Codette, 52 mm; and Arborfield/Vonda area, 30 mm. All areas that reported received above 15 mm, with the exception of Lake Lenore, which received no rain. The Nipawin area received 46 mm; Melfort area, 54 mm; Kinistino area, 60 mm; and Garrick area, 52 mm.

Cropland topsoil moisture conditions have improved from last week's report. Ninety-three per cent is reported as adequate and seven per cent short. Hay and pasture land topsoil moisture conditions are 86 per cent adequate and 14 per cent short.

Thirty per cent of the hay crop is cut, 13 per cent is baled or put into silage and 57 per cent remains standing. Thirty-nine per cent of the hay is reported as good quality and 46 per cent is fair. Hay yields are reported as below normal.

Crop damage was due mostly to wheat midge. Farmers are applying controls and continuing to monitor other fields for thresholds. Some areas would appreciate some rain to help with crop development.

At this time last year, 29 per cent of the hay crop had been baled or put into silage. The Middle Lake area received 70 mm of rain.

NE Crop Conditions - July 20, 2009

	Winter Wheat	Fall Rye	Spring Wheat	Durum	Oat	Barley	Triticale
% excellent	0	0	7	5	0	8	0
% good	70	72	63	52	77	69	100
% fair	25	20	28	37	21	22	0
% poor	4	6	1	5	0	1	0
% very poor	0	2	0	0	0	0	0

	Flax	Canola	Mustard	Sunflower	Pea	Lentil	Canaryseed	Chickpea
% excellent	0	1	0	0	9	0	1	0
% good	68	59	60	0	78	55	74	0
% fair	29	30	27	0	11	40	21	0
% poor	2	9	11	0	0	0	3	0
% very poor	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

Northwestern Saskatchewan (Crop Districts 9AW and 9B)

NW expected hay yields (tonnes/acre) – July 20, 2009					
	Alfalfa	Alfalfa/ Brome	Other Tame	Wild/Native	Greenfeed
Dry land	0.88	0.91	0.88	0.60	1.18
Irrigated	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Warm and windy days, followed by chilly nights were reported during last week. In the Pierceland area, the temperature hit -3°C on July 13. Rainfall was variable. Shellbrook received 33 mm, but Speers, North Battleford, Neilburg and Glaslyn received nothing. CD 9AW received an average of 15 mm and CD 9B received an average of 5 mm.

Cropland topsoil moisture conditions for this region remain relatively unchanged from last week, and are reported as 93 per cent adequate and seven per cent short. The hay and pasture topsoil moisture conditions also remained unchanged, and are reported as 88 per cent adequate and 12 per cent short.

Haying has just nicely started, with 18 per cent of the hay crop cut. Seven per cent of the hay crop has been baled or put into silage and 75 per cent remains standing. Five per cent of the hay crop is reported as excellent quality, 37 per cent good, 37 per cent fair and 10 per cent poor. The hay crop is short, and yields are expected to be below average, although predicting yields is still somewhat difficult. Crop reporters will know better once a few bales are rolled up.

Wheat midge and grasshoppers were the causes of most crop damage. Sclerotinia and ascochyta blight are present in canola and peas.

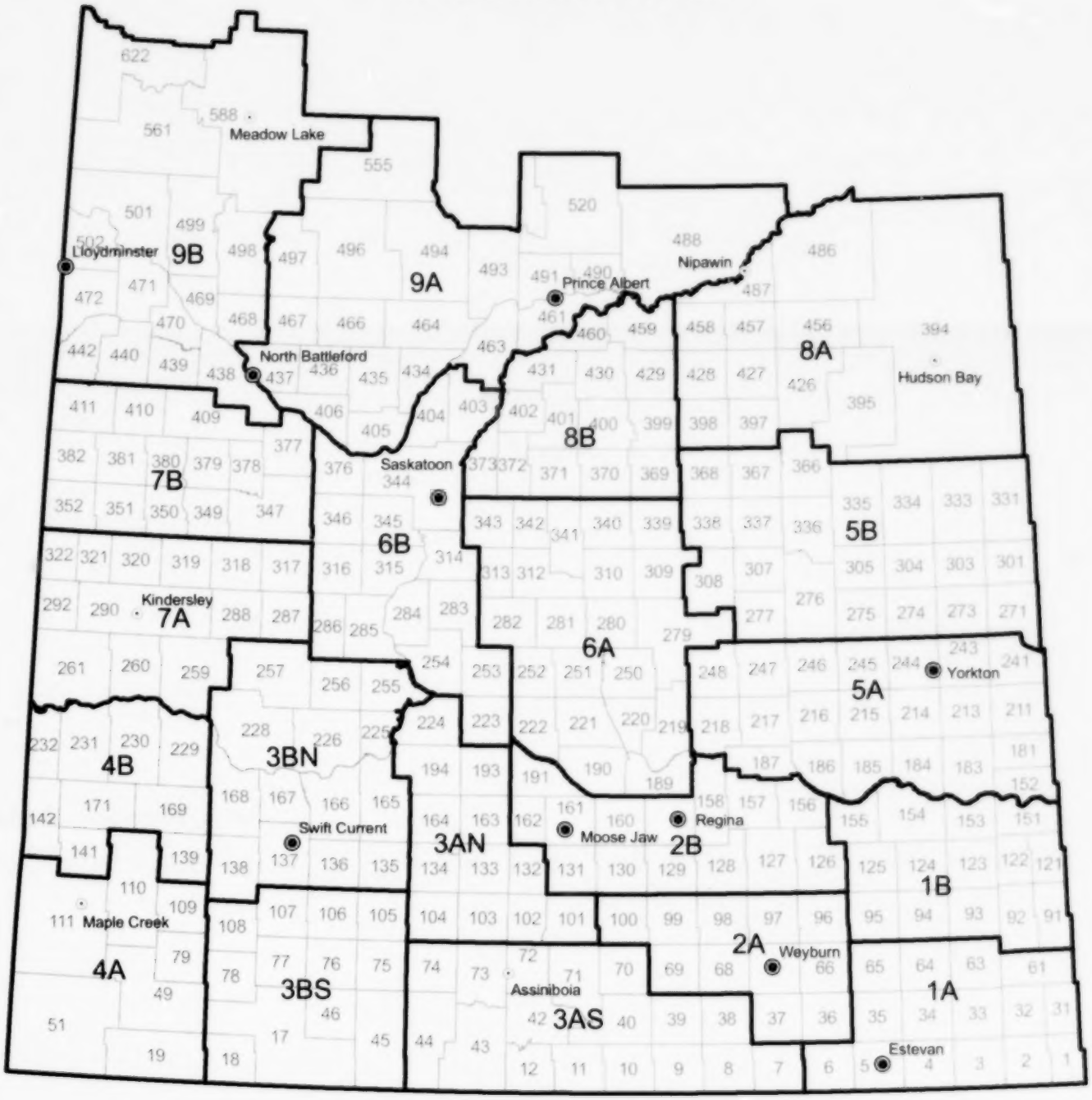
Canola is blooming and barley is heading out. Warm weather is needed to advance crops. Farmers are busy haying and scouting fields.

One year ago, 24 per cent of the hay had been baled or put into silage.

NW SK Crop Conditions - July 20, 2009

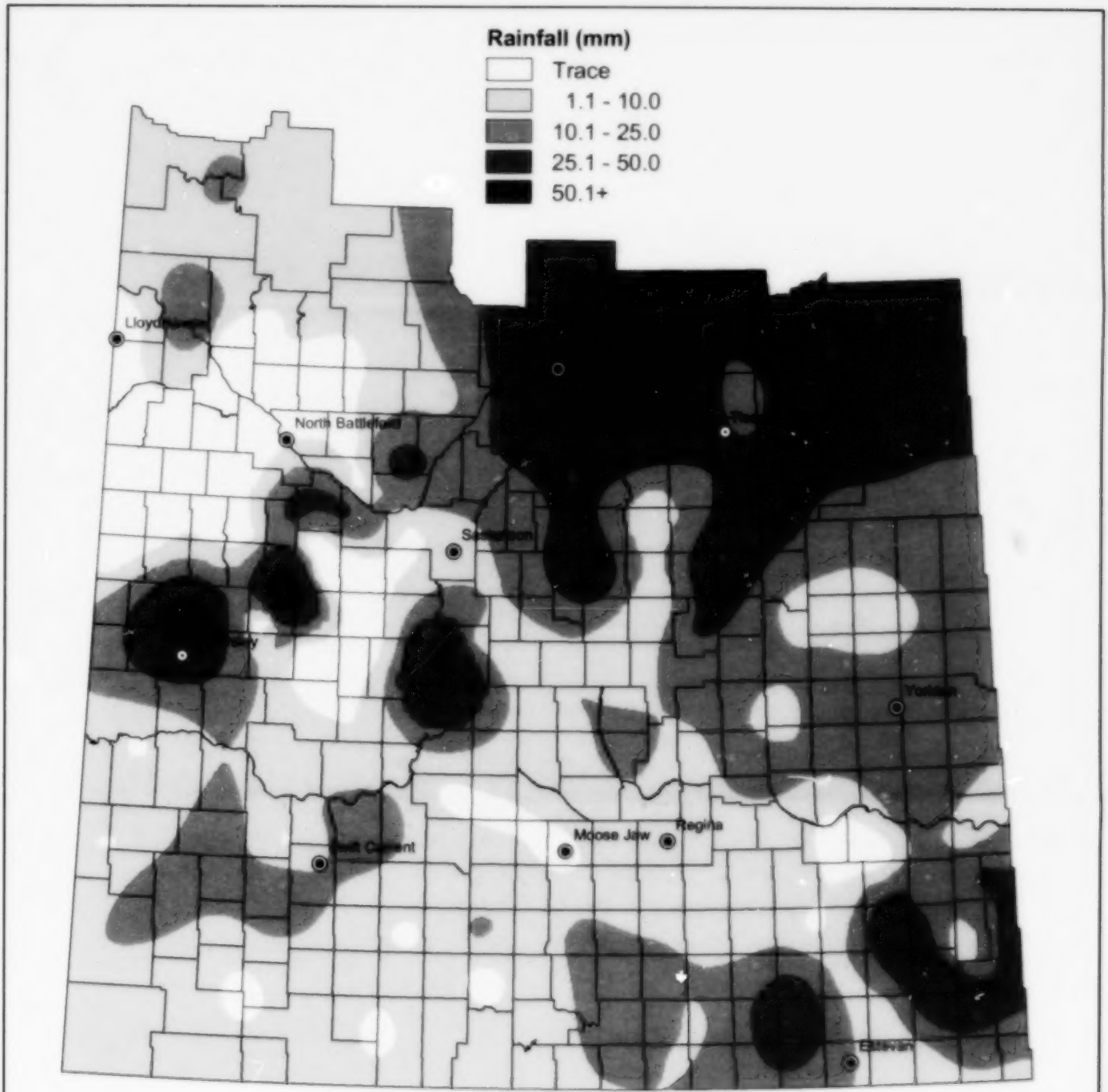
	Winter Wheat	Fall Rye	Spring Wheat	Durum	Oat	Barley	Triticale	
% excellent	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	
% good	86	83	77	0	80	76	100	
% fair	13	16	22	0	19	22	0	
% poor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
% very poor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Flax	Canola	Mustard	Sunflower	Pea	Lentil	Canaryseed	Chickpea
% excellent	0	1	0	0	7	0	0	0
% good	93	59	50	0	80	90	0	0
% fair	7	34	50	0	12	9	0	0
% poor	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
% very poor	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0

Crop Districts and Rural Municipalities in Saskatchewan



Weekly Rainfall

for the week ending July 20, 2009



NOTE: Since techniques used to smooth the transition between zones can affect the values in localized areas, this map should be used for regional analysis only.

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0 25 50 100 150 200

Kilometers

N W E S

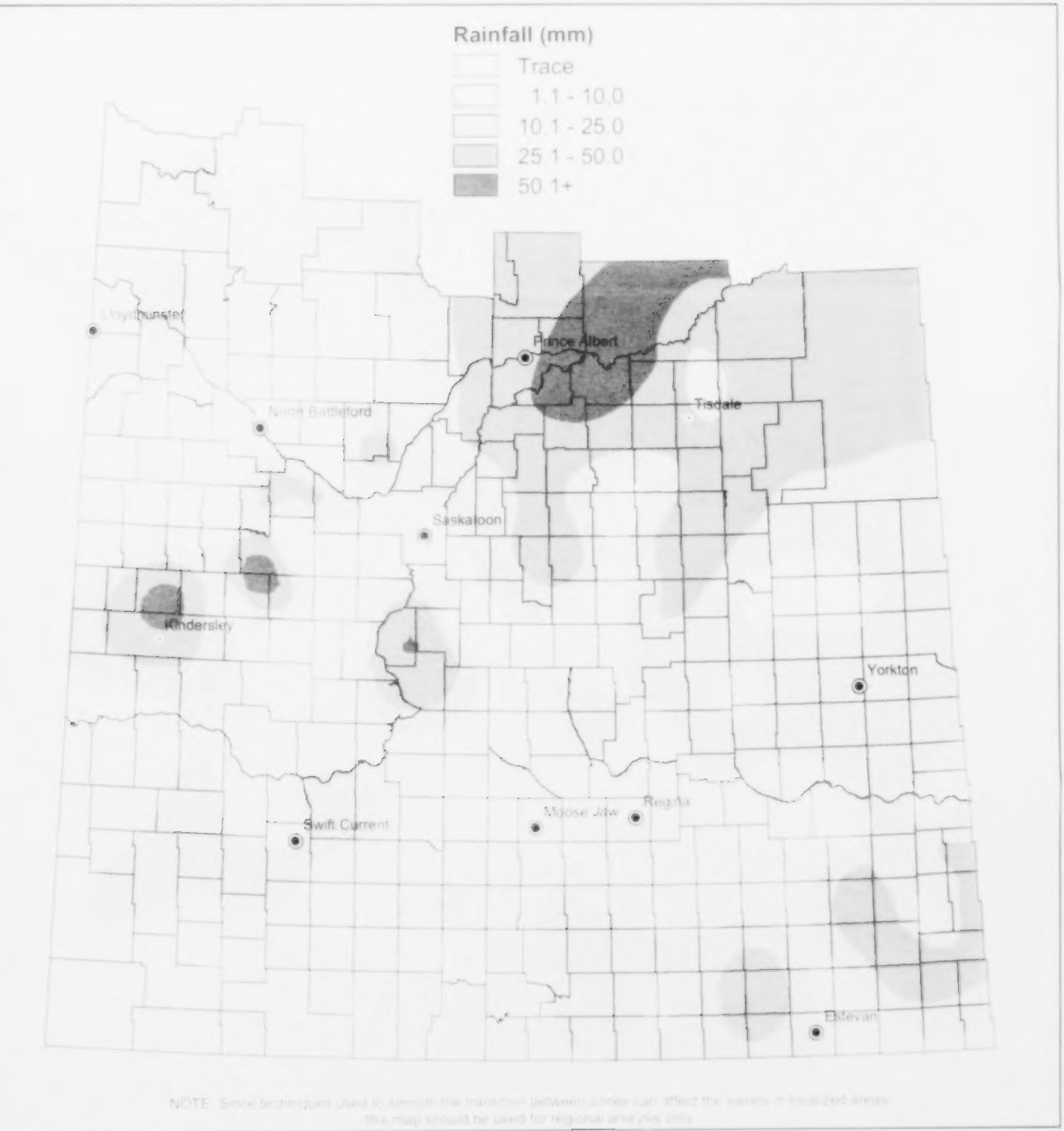
Projection: UTM Zone 13 Datum: NAD83

Data Source:
Rainfall - Ministry of Agriculture, Crop Report Database
Spline interpolation (tension = 50)

Prepared by: Geomatics Services Date: July 22, 2009

Weekly Rainfall

for the week ending July 20, 2009



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Kilometers

Data Source:
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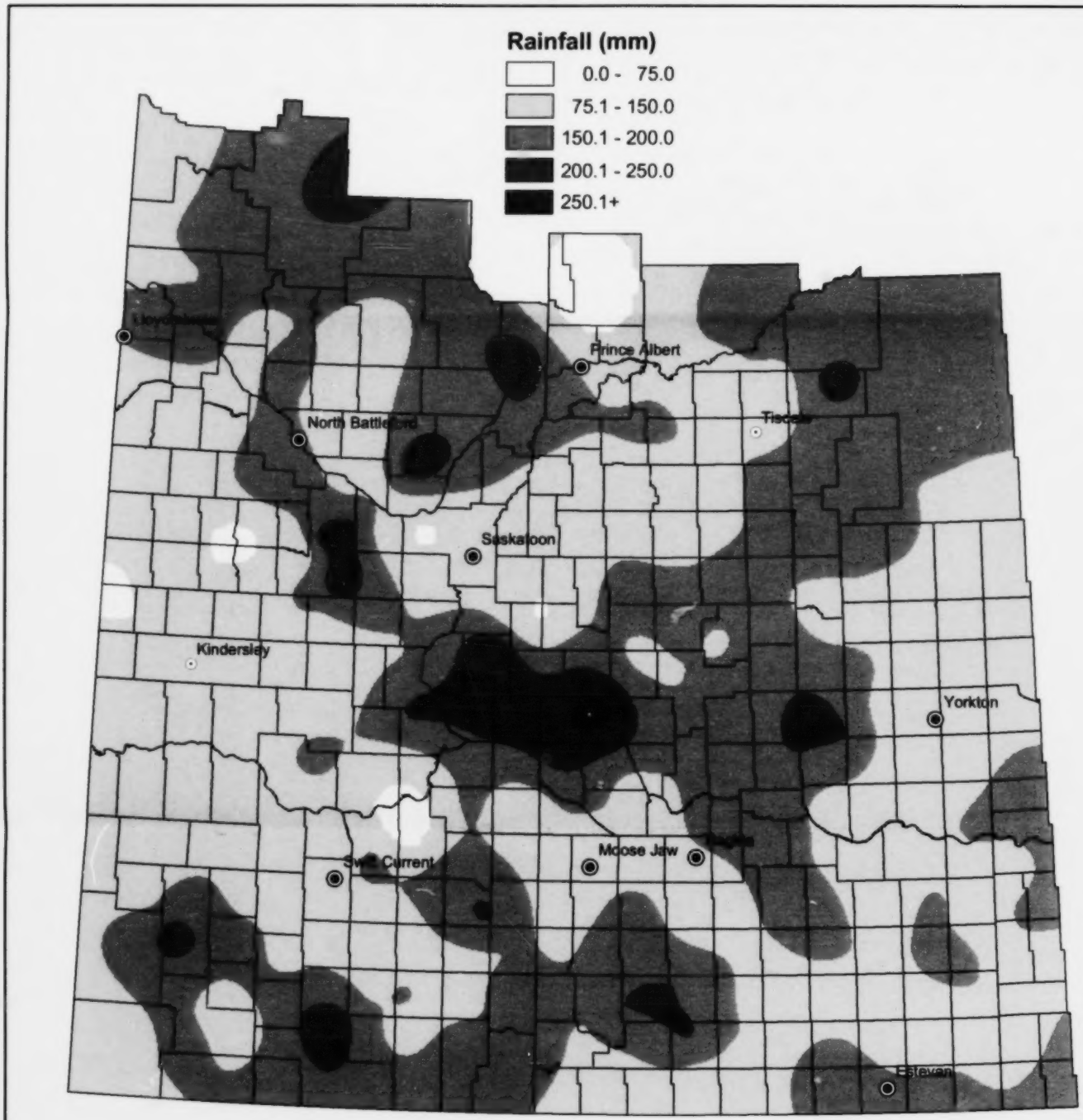
Spline interpolation (smooth = 50)

Prepared by: Geomatics Services Date: July 22, 2009

Cumulative Rainfall

From: April 1, 2009
To: July 20, 2009



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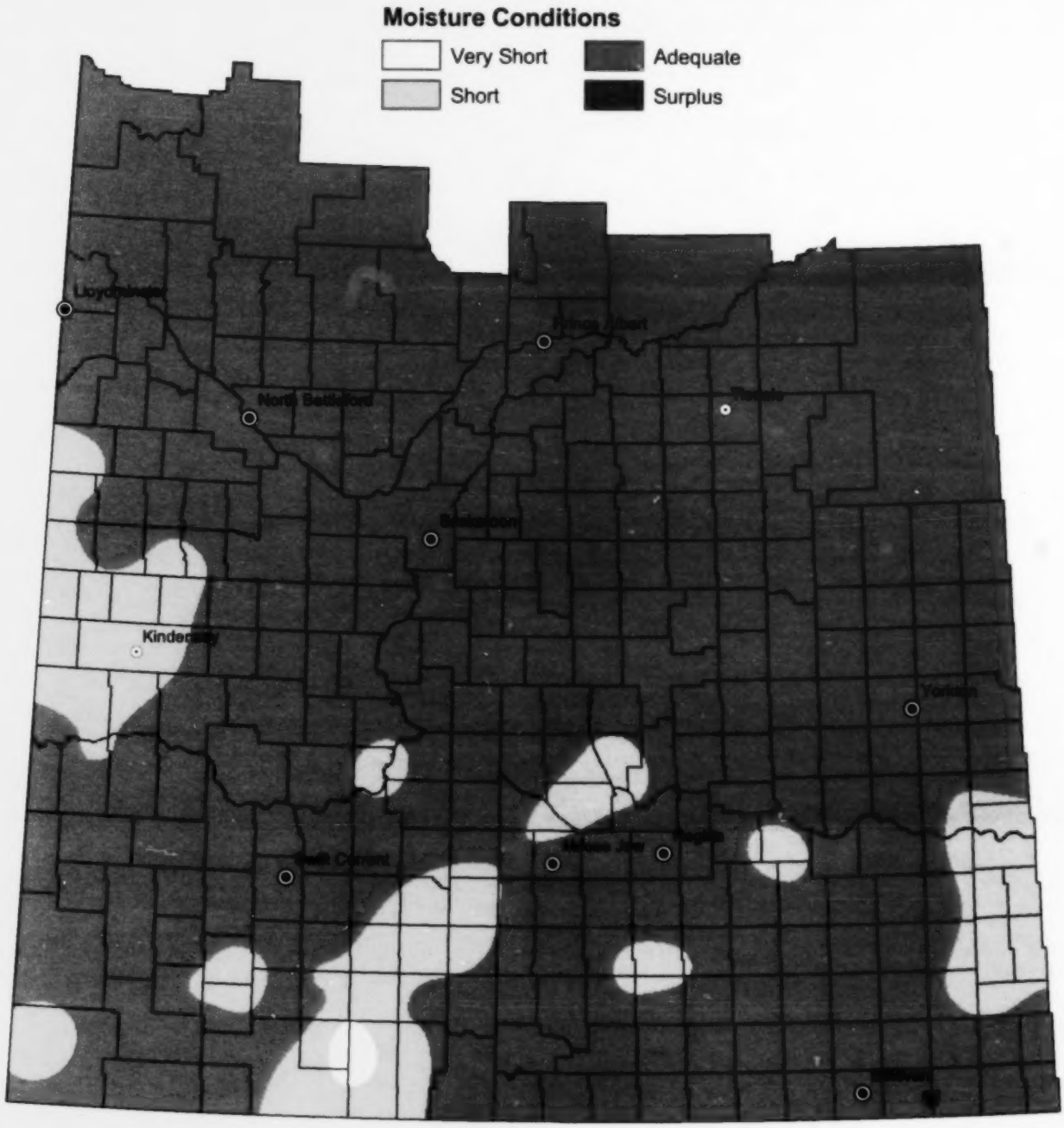
Cropland Topsoil Moisture Conditions

July 21, 2009



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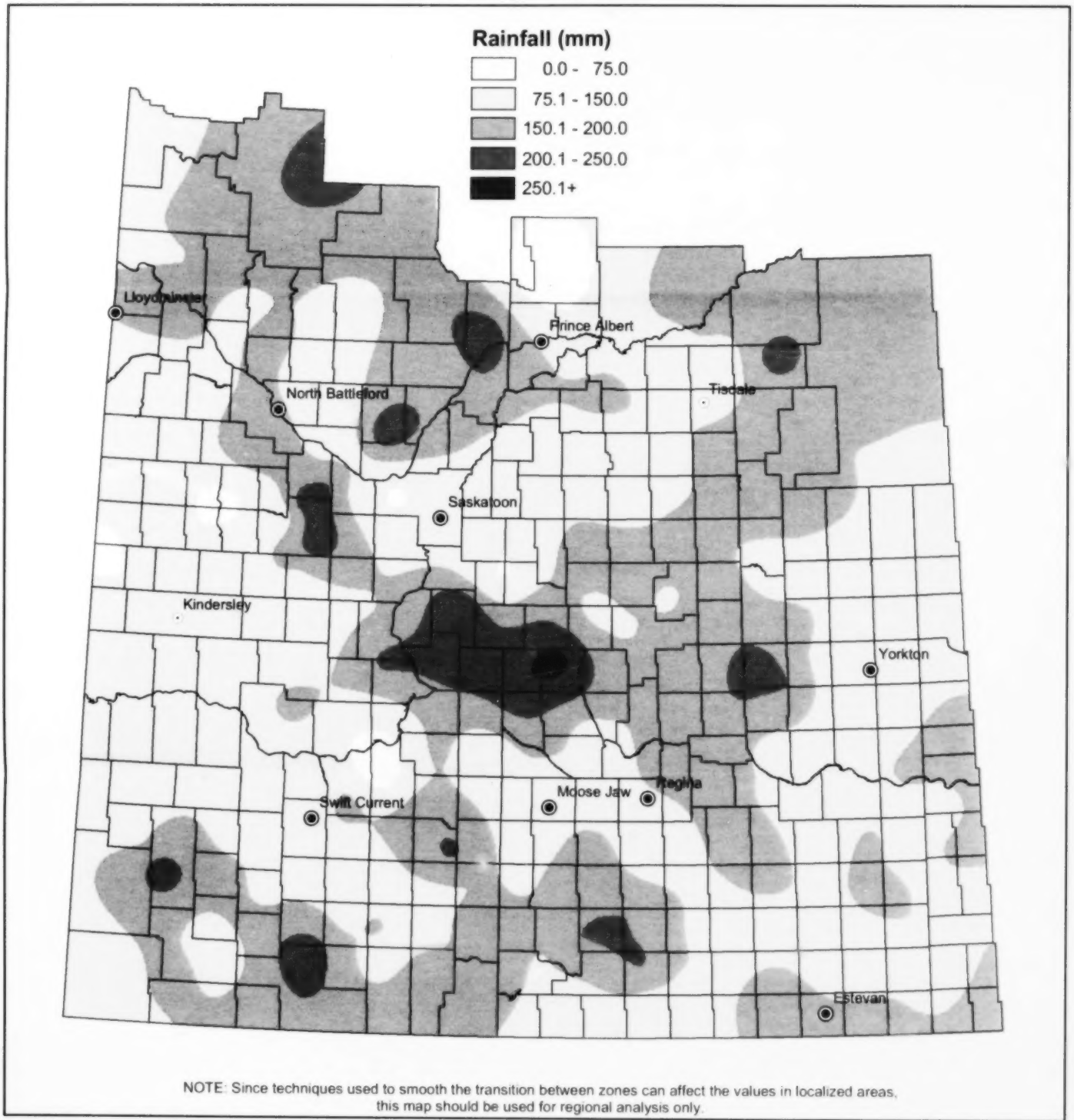

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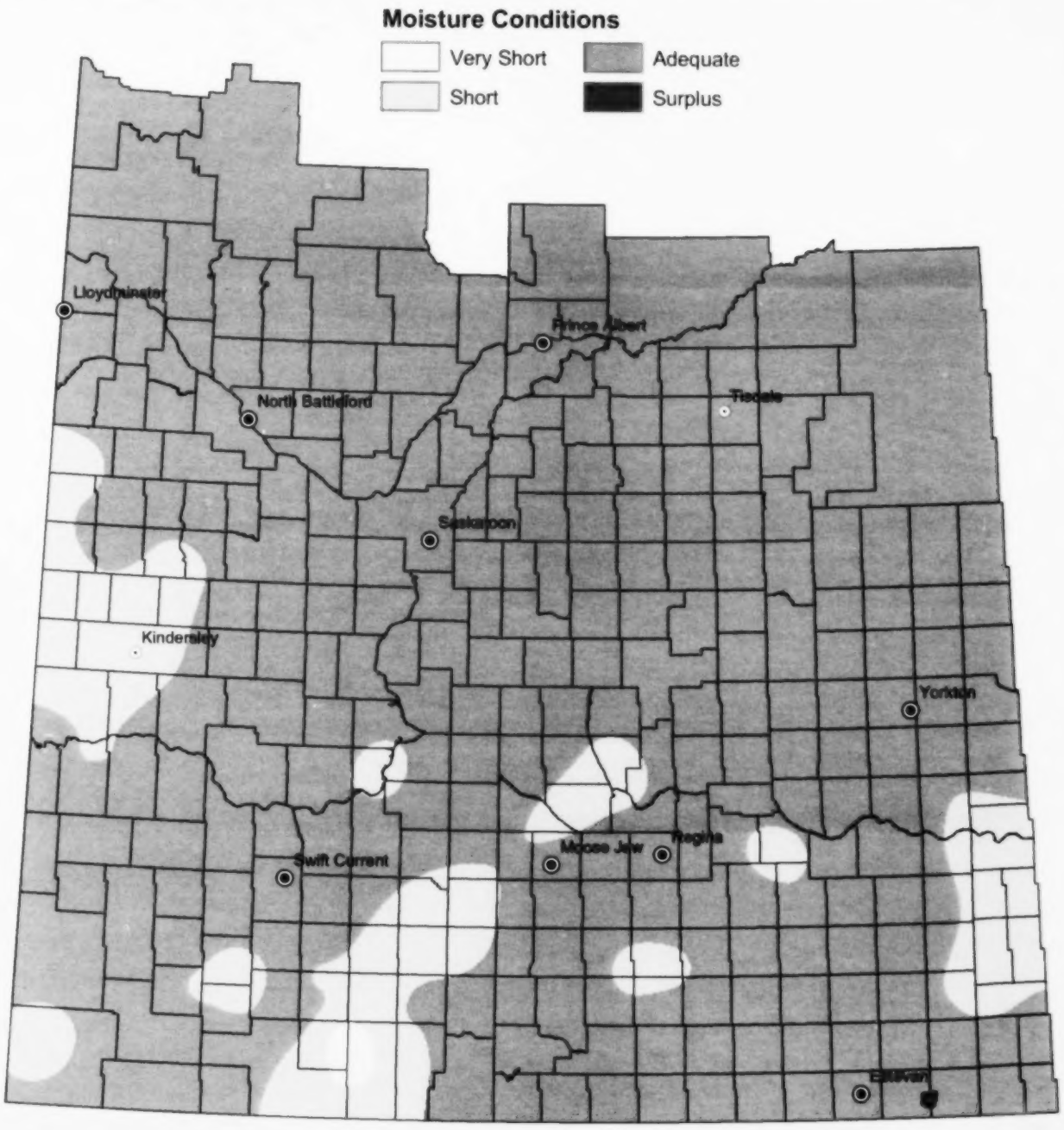
Cropland Topsoil Moisture Conditions

July 21, 2009



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Projection: UTM Zone 13 Datum: NAD83

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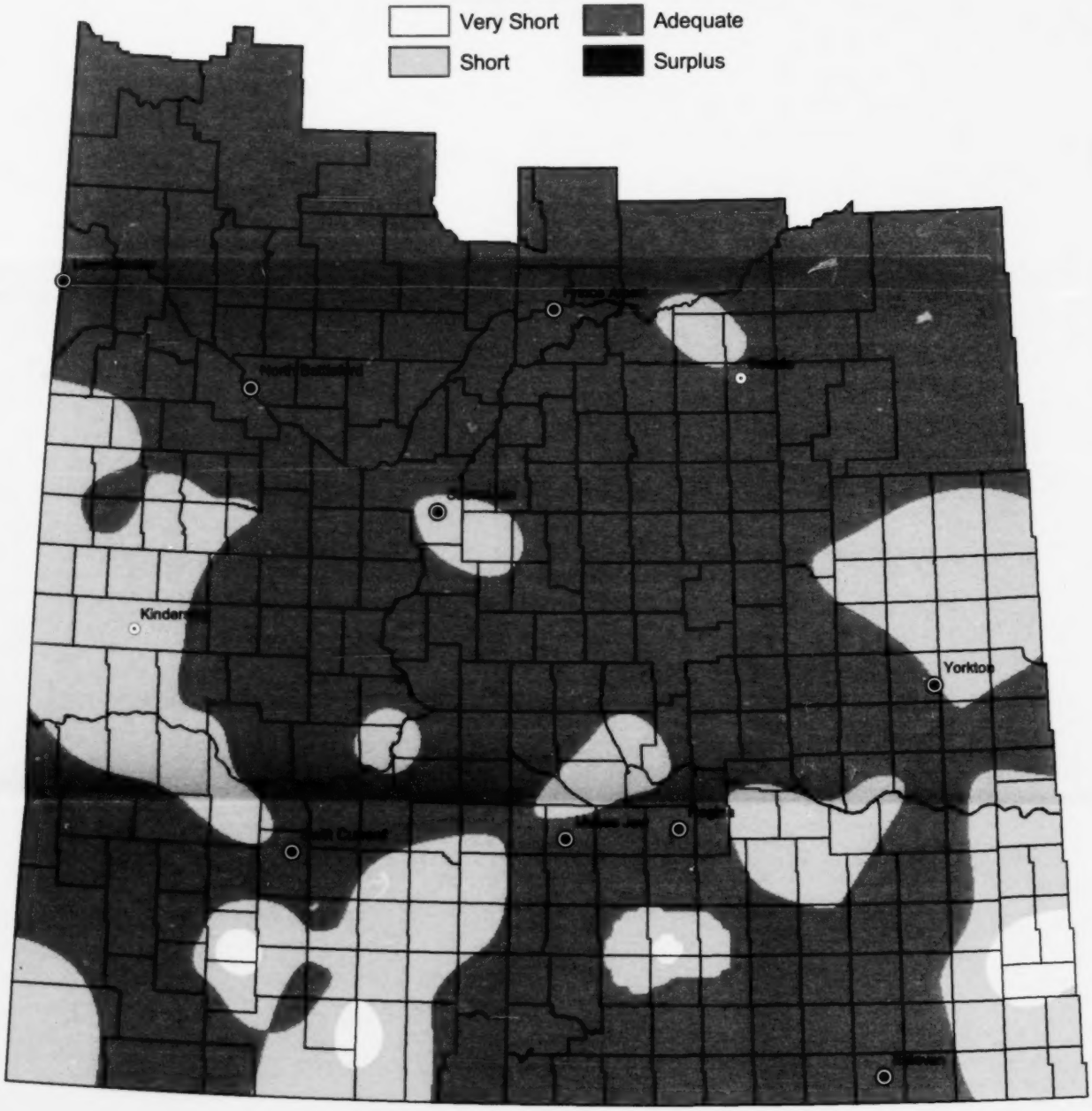
Prepared by: Geomatics Services Date: July 22, 2009

Hay and Pasture Topsoil Moisture Conditions

July 21, 2009



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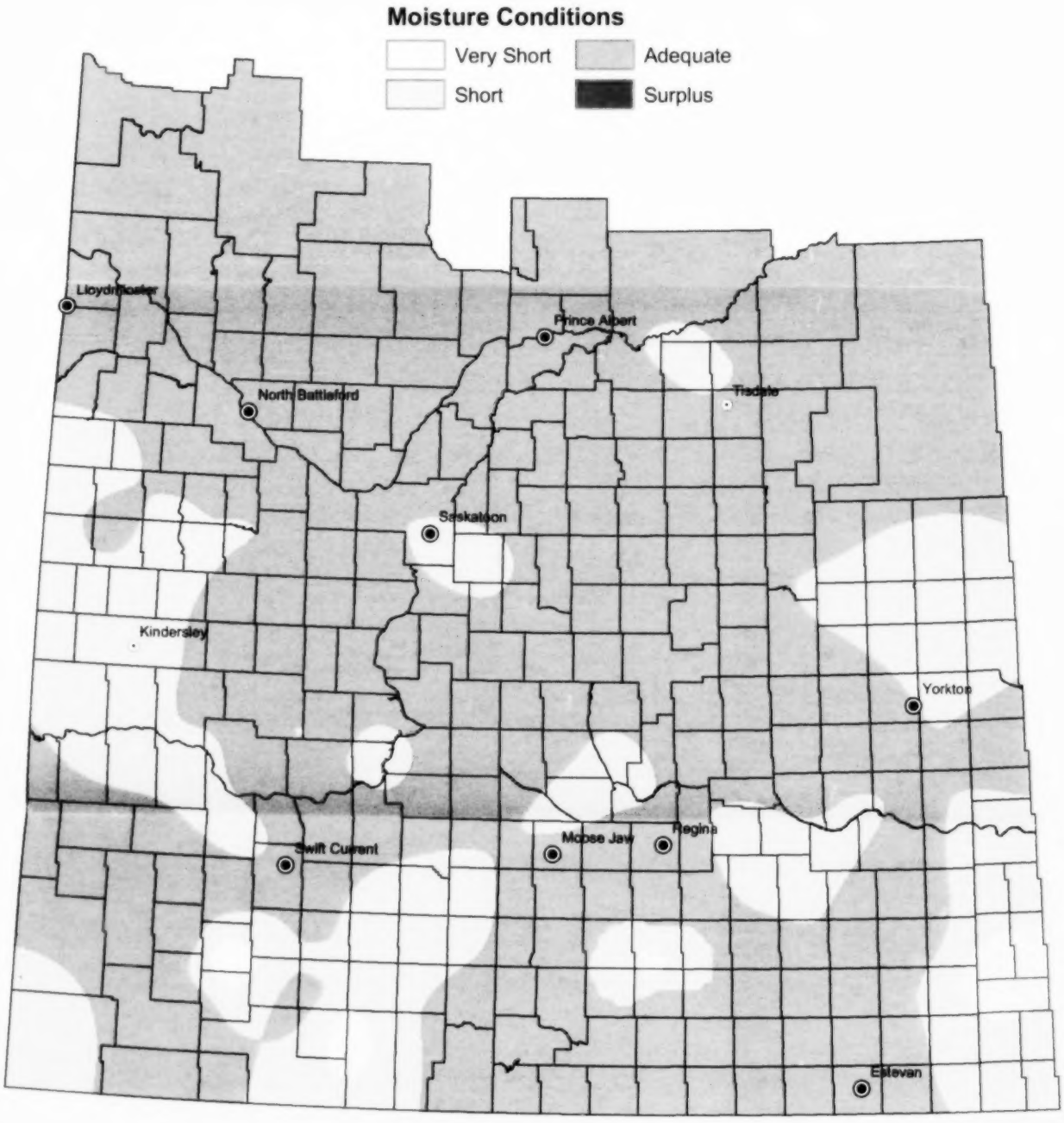
Hay and Pasture Topsoil Moisture Conditions

July 21, 2009



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